

Faith and the Gospel (Part 3)

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Scripture References

Romans 1:16	2 Peter 1:3
Galatians 1:6, 7	Galatians 2:16, <i>NLT</i>
2 Corinthians 12:7-9	Romans 5:1, 2
Hebrews 13:9, <i>NLT</i>	Romans 5:1, 2, <i>NLT</i>
Hebrews 13:9	

Summary

*Trust in what Jesus Christ did on the cross is critical for the believer. Our faith in His finished works brings us salvation, which encompasses deliverance, preservation, healing, soundness, and everything else we need in life. We cannot rely on the world's ideas and doctrines to give us strength and stability, only on the Gospel of Grace. Entrance into heaven is granted not through self-effort and strict obedience to the Law of Moses, but through belief in Jesus. There is nothing wrong with doing good things; however, we can only live right when we believe right, first. Applied properly, faith does not allow us to take the credit for anything good that happens, but instead acknowledges that **God** is responsible for it. Knowing how His grace and our faith fit together produces success.*

A. The world has plenty of its own “gospels,” but God has only one: the Gospel of Grace.

1. For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (Romans 1:16).
 - a. The gospel Paul referred to is the almost-too-good-to-be-true good news of Christ and His finished works. The power of God made those works available; releasing our faith gives us access to them.
2. I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ (Galatians 1:6, 7).
 - a. Paul warned the Galatians that the grace of Christ was the only true gospel. Through His grace, all things have been made available.
3. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee... (2 Corinthians 12:7-9).
 - a. God told Paul that His grace was all that was necessary to defeat the devil. Paul needed to draw from God's grace instead of asking Him to do what had already been done.
4. Everything we need has been invested in the Gospel of Grace; the question is whether we will get invested in this gospel. We are not strengthened by all the foolish worldly ideas around us, but by God's grace.
 - a. So do not be attracted by strange, new ideas. Your strength comes from God's grace, not from rules about food, which don't help those who follow them (Hebrews 13:9, *NLT*).

- b. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein (Hebrews 13:9).
- B. God's favor provides everything we need. We gain access to it by faith, not by self-effort.**
1. Grace has made available everything we need; faith allows us to lay hold of it. The Gospel of Grace is the power and ability of God to give us what we need. Our belief, not our works, position us to receive from Him.
 - a. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue (2 Peter 1:3).
 - b. Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law. And we have believed in Christ Jesus, so that we might be made right with God because of our faith in Christ, not because we have obeyed the law. For no one will ever be made right with God by obeying the law (Galatians 2:16, *NLT*).
 2. Our faith in Christ gives us wholeness, with nothing missing and nothing broken in our lives. It unlocks the door to privileges we do not deserve and could never earn. This means we can walk in undeserved healing, deliverance, and prosperity.
 - a. Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God (Romans 5:1, 2).
 - b. Therefore, since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us. Because of our faith, Christ has brought us into this place of undeserved privilege where we now stand, and we confidently and joyfully look forward to sharing God's glory (Romans 5:1, 2, *NLT*).
 3. We must gain a working definition of faith.
 - a. It is our positive response to God's grace.
 - b. It does not move God; it moves us into position to receive what He has provided by grace.
 - c. It does not cause a positive response from God; it is *our* positive response to what He has already provided.
 - d. It only takes possession of what God has already provided by grace. If God did not make it, then our faith cannot take it.

Category: faith

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